

**City of Socorro Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting**  
**City Hall, 111 School of Mines Road, Socorro, NM 87801**  
**July 21, 2014**

Mayor Ravi Bhasker called the meeting to order. Pat Salome, City Clerk, took roll call. Members present at roll call were: Mayor Ravi Bhasker, Councilor Peter D. Romero, Councilor Gordy Hicks, Councilor Ernest Pargas, Councilor Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez, Councilor Donald Monette and Councilor Toby Jaramillo. Councilor Nick Fleming and Councilor Michael Olguin were absent.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Bhasker led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2014 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

**a. July 7, 2014**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Bryn Botko, Head Coach of the Socorro Stingray Swim Team, stated that the team attended the New Mexico Games over the summer and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Several of the swim team members also attended the meeting with their ribbons and trophies. Ms. Botko stated that 33 swimmers attended the State finals and the team placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City would provide a banner for the swim team next summer. Mayor Bhasker and the City Council congratulated the swimmers on their successful summer.

**DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION**

**a. Decision by SEC Member/Owners Regarding Municipal Acquisition - Resolution**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 14-07-21 which, if approved, resolves the following:

*“NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Governing Body of the City of Socorro, that without input discouraging the City from acquiring the SEC (within the City limits) obtained at a legally organized, officially conducted and binding cooperative meeting (held in accordance with cooperative guidelines and SEC bylaws) by the member/owners of the SEC, the City will aggressively pursue the items contained in the June 16, 2014 resolution (pertaining to the initial phases of acquisition) and will systematically and legally move through the acquisition process.*

*Be it understood that should the democratic member control process be recognized and honored by the SEC Board in allowing member/owners an opportunity to vote on the question regarding municipal acquisition, the costs to both member/owners and municipal taxpayers would be kept to a minimum and the will and the integrity of the owners maintained and carried out.*

*Be it further understood that by passage of this resolution, the Socorro City Council encourages the SEC Board to give the member/owners an opportunity to vote on the question regarding municipal acquisition.”*

Mayor Bhasker stated the resolution encourages a decision by the SEC member/owners regarding municipal acquisition. Mayor Bhasker stated there have been complaints regarding the SEC for many years. Mayor Bhasker stated that SEC leadership has not made any changes to address those complaints. Mayor Bhasker stated that he feels the City is the last option member/owners have to try and change the actions of the SEC. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City has the option of partnering with a third party who is familiar with the industry should the utility be acquired by the City. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will be meeting with the Co-op auditing company that the SEC has hired on August 27th and the Administration intends to address the seven tenants of cooperatives that this cooperative is not following. Mayor Bhasker stated that the member/owners should have a meeting and if the decision is made by the member/owners to sell the business, the Board should not be able to stop them. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City will not pursue an acquisition if the member/owners are not interested in the acquisition. Mr. Salome stated that the SEC Board and management have been using the fact that there is not a quorum to promote their agenda. Mr. Salome stated that the failure to have a quorum lies with the

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management and not the member/owners. Charlie Wagner, an SEC Trustee, stated that Board has the ability to call a special meeting. Mr. Wagner stated that a majority of the Trustees can also call a meeting. Mr. Wagner stated that ten percent of the membership can call a special meeting. Councilor Monette asked who would preside over the meeting. Mr. Wagner stated that the Board President usually presides over the meeting but that a registered, independent parliamentarian could also preside over the meeting. Mayor Bhasker stated that the City Administration is currently reviewing documentation from the SEC (acquired through the Request to Inspect Public Records Act) which may take three to six months.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve Resolution No. 14-07-21. Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Agreement – City of Socorro & KFH Group Inc. – Fixed Route Transit Service Plan**

Mayor Bhasker presented an agreement between the City of Socorro and KFH Group Inc. to develop a Fixed Route Transit Service Plan for the City of Socorro. Mayor Bhasker stated that the group will also evaluate the City's current transportation system to see if any changes need to be made. Mayor Bhasker stated that having the plan will allow the City to request funds from the NM Department of Transportation for transportation purposes. Councilor Monette pointed out that Article VII reads State of South Dakota and needs to be changed to State of New Mexico.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Socorro and KFH Group Inc. as amended. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Final Budget Approval FY 2014-2015 – Resolution No. 001-B**

Mayor Bhasker presented Resolution No. 001-B which adopts the final budget for the City of Socorro for FY 2014-2015. Councilor Monette stated that in the last paragraph, in reference to the State Procurement Code, the words "Chapter 4" need to be changed to "Chapter 13".

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Resolution No. 001-B as amended. Seconded by Councilor Hicks, motion passed unanimously.

**d. In-House Budget Resolutions 105 and 106**

Ms. Gonzales explained that In-House Budget Resolutions 105 and 106 are adjustments within a department which are needed to allow for expenditures through the end of the fiscal year. The adjustments move funds from one line item to another within the same department. Budget Resolutions 105 and 106 include adjustments in the General Fund and Joint Enterprise Fund.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve In-House Budget Resolutions 105 and 106. Seconded by Councilor Chavez-Lopez, motion passed unanimously.

**e. Budget Resolutions**

**1. No. 19 – Lodger's Tax Promo Fund**

Resources are Beginning Cash Balance Available – Requirements are Salaries, Salaries OT and Capital Outlay – Amount is \$45,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2014.

**2. No. 20 – Joint Enterprise Fund – Gas Department**

Resources are Unanticipated Revenue – Requirements are Natural Gas Purchases – Amount is \$275,000.00 – The increase is needed to allow for expenditures to June 30, 2014.

Councilor Monette made a motion to approve Budget Resolutions 19 and 20. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Gonzales stated that the Utility Billing Committee will meet on July 30<sup>th</sup> at noon at City Hall.

**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

**a. Personnel Changes**

Councilor Romero motioned to approve the personnel changes as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Daniel Chavez – 7-21-14 – Parks – New Hire (Parks Crewman) – A-19

Katy Weaver – 7-22-14 – Tourism – New Hire (Tourism Clerk) – A-16

Juliet Montoya – 7-1-14 – Animal Shelter – Merit/Additional Job Duties – D-22 to D-24

Orlando Martinez – 8-1-14 – Fire – New Hire (FF/EMT Recruit) – A-26

Temporary New Hires: Rick Silva, Natasha Otero, Kevin Gonzales

Temporary Renewals: Emena Gonzales, Rick Griego, Daniel Chavez, Paul Marquez, Carlos Alvarado, Ramiro Garza, Albert Hernandez, George Romero, Mike Jojola, Elias Jacquez, Tony Silva, Regina Valencia, Sergio Cuevas, Angelica Vega, Michael Padilla, Jeremy Chavez, Brittany McDaniel, Ryan Romero, Shaina Lopez, Jared Marquez, Elizabeth Dunning, Ibrahim Maiga

Student Workers: Matthew Jojola, Tamera Chavez, Maria Alderete, Giovanna Rosas, Samantha Maldonado, Sistine Dunn

Referees (10), Zumba (2), Lifeguards (12), Summer Youth (95)

Seconded by Councilor Jaramillo, motion passed unanimously.

**b. Business Registrations**

Councilor Hicks motioned to approve the business registrations as read by Mayor Bhasker:

Clara Reyes Agency – C-1 – 101 ½ Eaton – Clara Reyes – Insurance

CCI Systems Inc. – Out of Town – Iron Mountain, MI – Corporation – Mapping of Baja Broadband System

Divine Nutrition – C-2 – 409 California Street – Olivia Lopez & Miguel Saavedra – Health Club

Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

**c. Voucher Run**

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 130470 to 130610 in the amount of \$550,891.92, plus Payroll Transfers (\$339,873.74), for a total of \$890,765.66. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Hicks made a motion to approve vouchers 130611 to 130869 in the amount of \$738,083.43, plus Payroll Transfers (\$353,015.46), for a total of \$1,091,098.89. Seconded by Councilor Romero, motion passed unanimously.

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**d. Announcement – Next City Council Meeting Date and Time – August 4, 2014 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Mayor Bhasker stated that the next regular City Council meeting would be held on August 4, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:02 p.m., Councilor Hicks motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Monette, motion passed unanimously.

**THE CITY OF SOCORRO – a municipal corporation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

**Ravi Bhasker, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/

**Pat Salome, City Clerk**